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THE HOME WORKSHOP

BRASS BALLS AND RINGS.

BY JEAN KATE LUDLOW.

A NOVEL fringe for a blue plush table scarf, consists of a half dozen brass balls, (such as are used at the ends of curtain poles), the screws being entirely concealed by a winding of gold cord. These are fastened along the ends of the scarf for fringe and brass curtain rings sewed upon the plush just above where the fringe is fastened.

A cover for a small table for the library, of green plush or heavy green silk, may have a border of brass curtain rings, one at each extreme end, one each side six inches above, and one in the centre of each edge. The brass can be polished when discolored and forms a charming decoration.

SCREENS AND SCREEN MAKING,

BY LAURA B. STARR.



SCREENS have become such a matter of necessity these days that there is no housekeeper so poor but feels she must have one or more. They are made to serve as great a variety of uses as there are women who make and arrange them.

They partition off a delightful cosy corner in a drawing-room; they make an adjustable dressing-room; they serve to cut off draughts; they screen one's face from the burning fire; they hide from public view necessary but unsightly objects; in addition to all these, they are, when handsomely made, very decorative.

There is absolutely no rule for the size or shape of screens, they may be high or low, narrow or broad, one fold or six, as the fancy dictates, or one's needs demand. Many of the new ones are hung with soft Eastern stuffs, a loose frieze, a foot deep at the top, the lower part being fastened at the top and bottom.

Screens made of leather are very handsome for dining-rooms and libraries. A pine framework covered with embossed or illuminated leather and decorated with a leather frieze, studded with brass nails is very suitable for a dining-room.

Library and hall screens are made of the new materials employed as wall coverings and every variety of embossed and raised paper is used, either alone or in combination with small panels or pictures laid on. Deep toned leathers are often painted by hand, the color of the material forming the background. A great variety is made by using the gilt, silver and bronze paints. A valence of silk at the top with heavy panels of lincrusta at the bottom, treated with gilt or bronze paint, make a substantial screen and pleasing contrast.

The five o'clock tea screen, Fig. 1, has a folding shelf, two feet from the bottom, for cups and saucers. The curtain of Derby satin is hung on a brass rod. There is a lattice of reglet sticks at the bottom and a row of spindles at the top.

There is not so great a variety in the fashion of fire screens, they are invariably single and are now generally of transparent, or at least of semi-opaque material. In their construction opalescent, stained and painted glass plays important parts. Exceedingly handsome ones are made of very fine brass wire, closely interwoven and mounted on frames of hammered metal.

A combination tea and fire screen stands four feet high and has two painted or embroidered panels at the top, and two open ones below, divided by a shelf. The lower panels have little loose curtains of Oriental stuff, corresponding to a certain extent with the embroidery above. These panels are for the feet to pass through, and get warmed by the fire, while the face is

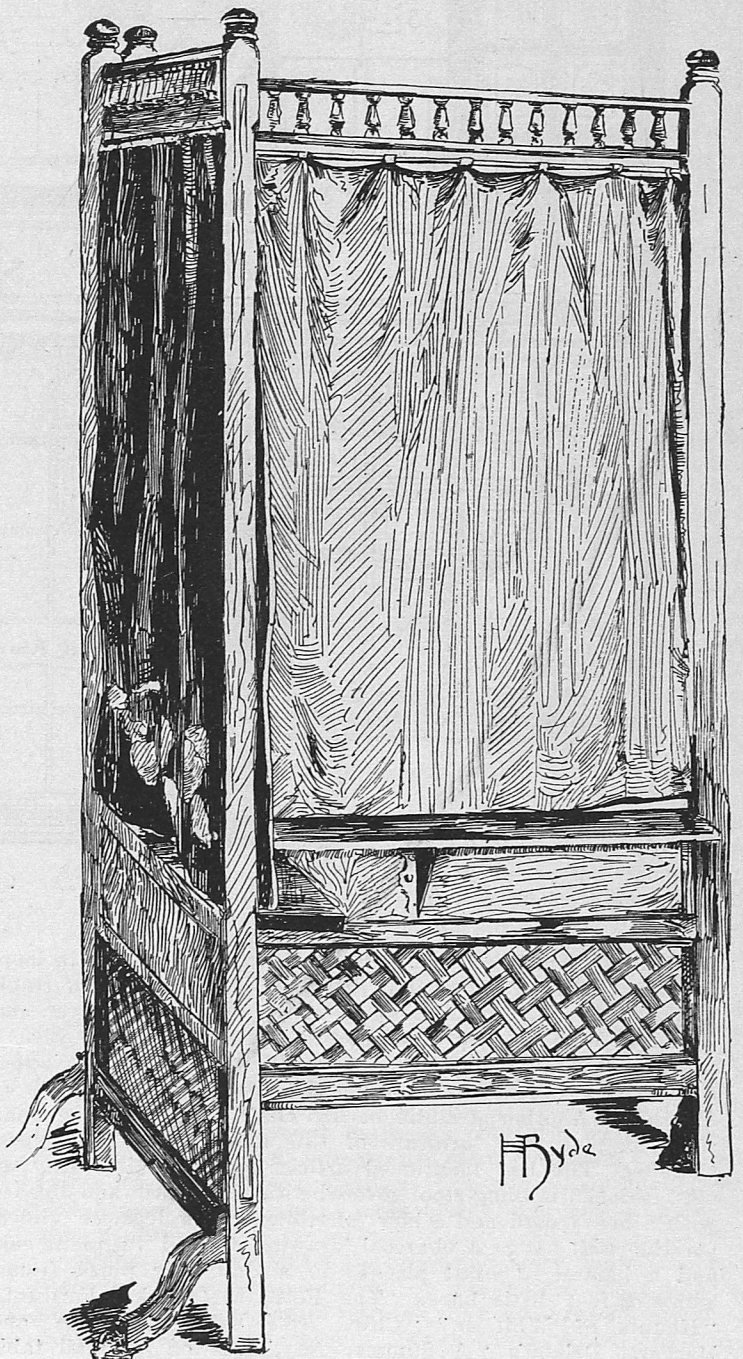


FIG. 1.—FIVE O'CLOCK TEA SCREEN, DESIGNED BY HELEN HYDE.

screened from the heat thereof. The shelf is convenient for the cups of tea, work or book.

A standing double panel screen recently seen was worked in a beautiful way. One panel was of old gold satin, with a profuse design of tea plant, the leaves being worked in green silks, and the small white fire petal flowers, with the glistening scales of the perch. Each scale was sewed on with the needle and the centre of the flowers were filled in with French knots of yellow



FIG. 2.—SCREEN OF PAINTED DUCK AND REGLET STICKS, DESIGNED BY HELEN HYDE.

silk. The second panel was of pale peacock blue satin, with a towering graceful branch of myrtle, the stalks being of silks, a few flowers of white silk and the leaves composed of beetles' wings sewed on.

Another particularly handsome one made to match the French decoration now so much in vogue. The frame was of yellow bamboo, with panels of undyed velvet, covered with trailing branches of wild roses, thickly sprinkled with the delicate pink blossoms which look particularly well against the soft creamy tint of this material.

One of the prettiest designs for a screen is a trellis work on brown plush; upon which is clambering a large white clematis; Virginia creeper, hops or any climbing plants may be utilized in the same way.

The three-fold screen of pine, Fig. 2, with lattice of reglet sticks, top and bottom, has panels of white duck painted with Watteau figures, or pastoral scenes. The frame and reglet sticks are unstained, a coat of varnish bringing out the natural beauty of the wood admirably.

The yellow and brown bamboo makes the handsomest frames for screens, but the material is sometimes difficult to obtain as well as being rather difficult to work with, especially by the novice. Fig. 3 represents a screen design in white bamboo.

A very inexpensive screen has a three-fold frame, five feet high, of light wood shellacked or oiled. This was covered first with strong white cloth, then with dark red velvet paper finished

with a gilt moulding just inside the frame. On this paper was arranged a variety of the quaint silk Japanese figures. A second panel had an arrangement of peacock feathers, while the third showed a Makart bouquet of cat-tails and dried rushes and grasses. This has the advantage of being easily renewed each year with fresh materials in a new fashion.

Pale yellow, or figured matting, if often used for screen panels with good effect. The delicate tints forming an admirable background for the brush.

A very elegant screen seen lately was three-fold, the two side divisions being only half the width of the centre one. The material with which it was covered was serge, embroidered with a floral design of lilies and sunflowers, carried across the top and down the sides.

A cream linen background looks well with branches of cherries, apples or peaches worked in natural colors, these are very dainty and especially suitable for an afternoon tea.

Palm leaf fans and others are now frequently set in bamboo frames in such a way that they make exceedingly decorative fire screens. Some are placed close together, but three or four set rather apart answer the purpose and look rather better.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

CLARISSA L. OWEN. At Christmas my husband surprised me by the gift of a new piano, a very elegant instrument in an exquisite case of Honduras mahogany. Will you tell me, if you please whether you have any new ideas to offer in regard to a piano scarf, and will you suggest something to match as a cover for the piano stool. I would like rich draperies, or you can, if you will, mention two or more varieties of piano draperies.

A very rich cover for an upright piano, which recently at-

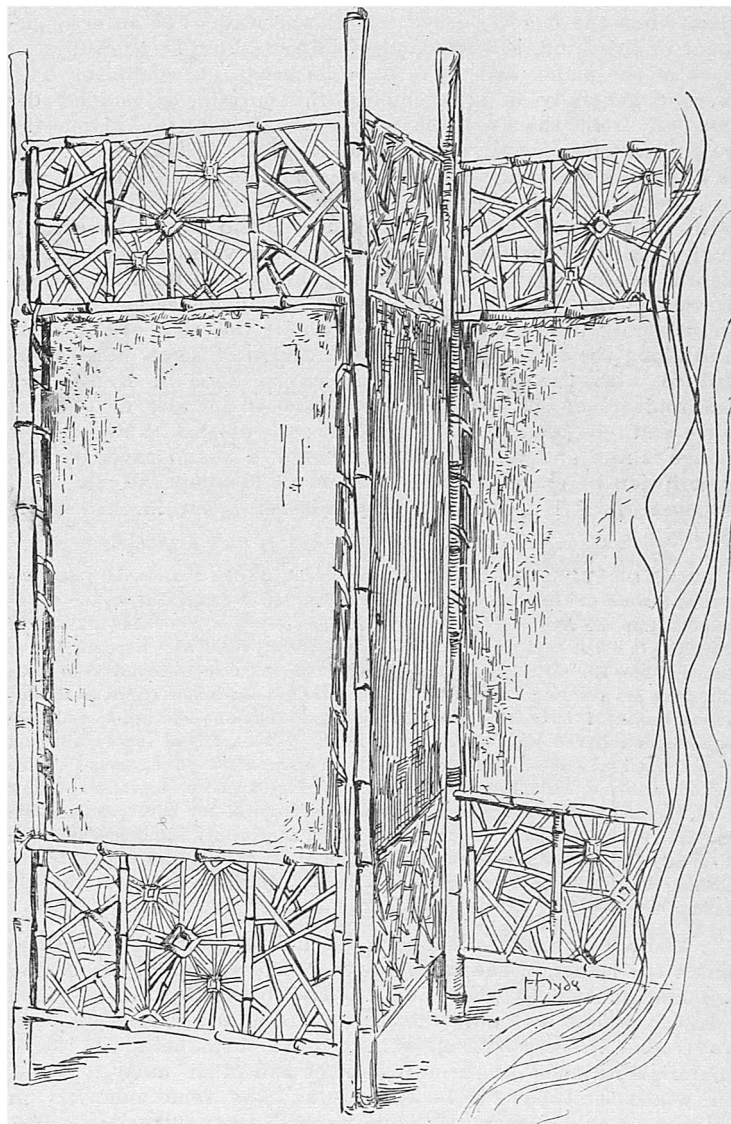


FIG. 3.—SCREEN DESIGN IN WHITE BAMBOO, DESIGNED BY HELEN HYDE.

tracted our attention is a scarf made of silk plush of a medium dark shade of sea-green dotted (or as it is the fashion to say, "powdered") at each end with *fleurs de lis* done in silk em-